

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48-50 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526

[www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)

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**Parish Pastoral Council President:** Mr Chris Lyon  
 Mobile: 0403 296 837

**Parish School:** St Pius X Primary School  
 Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets  
 (PO Box 358) Unanderra NSW 2526  
 Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954





**School Principal:** Mrs Pauline Chrostowski

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Melissa Bridges (Mon/Wed/Fri)

**Parish Office:** Email: [unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au)  
 Website: [www.unanderraparish.org.au](http://www.unanderraparish.org.au)  
 Phone: 4271 1068

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) – 10 MARCH 2024

**Parish Vision—We are a diverse community united by our love for Jesus and for one another, constantly seeking to grow in this love especially through the Eucharist. We welcome everyone and help each other to discover their unique gifts, joyfully working together as one to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people.**

Weekly Programme	Immaculate Conception UNANDERRA	St Therese WEST WOLLONGONG
Mon 11 Mar	<b>No Mass today</b>	
Tues 12 Mar	<b>No Mass today</b>	Mass: 7:45am
Wed 13 Mar	<b>No Mass today</b>	Adoration: 4:30pm Reconciliation: 4:30pm - 5:15pm Mass: 5:30pm 
Thurs 14 Mar	Polish Mass: 11am Mass: 5:30pm Reconciliation: 6pm - 6:45pm Adoration: 6pm - 7pm 	Mass: 7:45am
Fri 15 Mar	Mass: 7am <b>Stations of the Cross: 7pm</b>	Mass: 9:30am <b>Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm</b>
Sat 16 Mar	Rosary 7am Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5pm - 5:30pm Mass: 6pm 	Rosary: 8:30am Mass: 9am 
Sun 17 Mar	Mass: 8am Mass: 10am (Polish)	Mass: 10am Mass: 5pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Recently Deceased

Peter Ruhl

#### Prayers for the sick

Peter Lathourakis, Peter Stoyles, Antoinette Sakr  
 Kerrie Maidment, Roger Baxendale, Josephine Moran

#### Anniversaries

Richard Bampton, Don Bucknall,  
 Stephen Hawkins, Nancy Plenderleith,  
 Ernestina Santos, William Swift



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

[unanderra@dow.org.au](mailto:unanderra@dow.org.au) / 4271 1068

Monday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-3pm

## *Message from Fr Duane*

As we pass the halfway point of the season of Lent, we celebrate “Laetare Sunday”. Laetare means “Rejoice” – in the sense of a command. This may seem strange – how can we be told to rejoice? Surely joy is something that is beyond our control? Doesn’t it depend on our circumstances? Today we are reminded that the most fundamental truth of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate at every Mass, is our deepest source of joy – in all circumstances.

Let us reflect on this day on the powerful words of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, “*Evangelii Gaudium*” – “*The Joy of the Gospel*” – which he wrote to the Church in the first year of his papacy:

“There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: “My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness... It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord” (Lamentations 3:17, 21-23, 26).”

**Fr Duane Fernandez**

## *Message from Sr Kerry*

Scott a delightful student, having been in the class the previous year had already celebrated his First Reconciliation and Communion. While teaching Reconciliation to the class that he was repeating he sat there and was taking it all in. When preparing for Reconciliation for myself I do like to think of the reason I do the wrong that I do. I also taught this to the students.

One lesson I was giving a hypothetical example of how I may have been upset with the class. The cause of my upset was not from the class but from a person who had upset me. I explained the class should not have been on the receiving end of my emotions. Scott put up his hand and said, ‘Sr have you been to Confession.’ I gave him a ‘yes.’ He then said, ‘Well Sr forget about it.’ I was more than pleased that my teaching on the need of letting go and accepting the love and forgiveness of God had obviously reached Scott.

As we journey this Lent perhaps you too are thinking about celebrating Reconciliation. Like Scott, I hope you have learnt to let go and know that God forgives you, or as you approach the Sacrament, will forgive you and you need to let go.

**Sr Kerry Gardiner**



### **HOLY WEEK at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 2024**

#### **Holy Thursday 28 March**

**11am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)**

**7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Fr. David O’Brien)**

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

**10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)**

**11am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)**

**3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. Duane)**

#### **Easter Saturday 30 March**

**11am Blessing of the food (Polish)**

**12 noon Blessing of the food (Polish)**

**7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Peter Gardiner)**

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

**8am Mass (Fr. Duane)**

**10am Polish Mass (Fr Jerzy)**

### **HOLY WEEK at ST THERESE 2024**

#### **Holy Thursday 28 March**

**7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Fr. Duane)**

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

**10am Stations of the Cross (Acolyte)**

**3pm Commemoration of the Passion (Fr. David O’Brien)**

#### **Easter Saturday 30 March**

**7pm Easter Vigil (Fr. Duane)**

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

**8am Mass (Fr. David O’Brien)**

**10am Mass (Fr. Duane)**

*There will be no 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday*

### **ROSTER – THIS WEEKEND**

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 9 Mar	Church Cleaning	<b>1 or 2 volunteers needed</b>	
Sat 9 Mar	Lawns	No lawn mowing this week	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 9 Mar	D Nugent	B Farraway	
8am 10 Mar	C Walsh	J Sharwood	Kirra Calvert, Maria Matos
Counters	A Gunning, M Caudero, C Garrett		

### **ROSTER – NEXT WEEKEND**

March	Church Washing	Helen Murphy	
Sat 16 Mar	Church Cleaning	G Lord, L Zanetti, S Adams	
Sat 16 Mar	Lawns	M & J Winner, Walsh, Carrigan, Bennett, Walker	
	Lectors	Welcomers	Children’s liturgy
6pm 16 Mar	M Rodwell	S Marsala	
8am 17 Mar	A Browne	A Arnone	Kylie & Molly Hertsch, Gemma Farrugia
Counters	A Kelly, B Farraway		

## PARISH NEWS

### Catholic Women's league

The monthly meeting of the CWL will be held at 10.00am on Thursday, 14th March in St Joseph's Room. Everyone is most welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat before the meeting.



### Rosters for Easter

As Easter is fast approaching, it is time to compile a list of rosters for the ceremonies.

Are you able to assist in any of the following ministries *Readers, Welcomers, Volunteers for Washing of the Feet* Special ceremonies include Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday Stations, Good Friday Passion, Easter Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday.

If you would like to be a part of these ceremonies please add your name to the roster sheet in the middle of the church. If you have any questions please contact **Barbara 0419 9896087**.

### Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent



On the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place at:

7pm at Immaculate Conception  
5:30pm at St Therese West Wollongong

### Parish Pastoral Council

View the Parish calendar [here](#).

If you would like to contact the PPC, please call *Chris Lyon* on 0403 296 837.

### Christian Meditation:



The Christian Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings in the St Therese Parish Centre 6pm - 7:30pm.

**ENQUIRIES:** Please text **Monica 0412 056 877**. All are welcome

### 2024 Sacramental Program - registration evenings

#### Term 1 - Confirmation

Tuesday 12th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre  
Thursday 14th March 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

#### Term 2 - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Tuesday 18th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre  
Thursday 20th June 7pm at St Therese Parish Centre

### Project Compassion

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

**Please donate to Project Compassion**

[caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



### Parish Finances - week ending 3 March 2024

\$517	First Collection	- Clergy Remuneration Fund
\$488	Second collection	- Parish expenses
\$200	Tap Point - Parish donations	
\$454	Planned giving envelopes	
\$556	Direct debits (weekly average from Feb).	

Direct debits can be contributed weekly, fortnightly or monthly



### Recycling bins - \$189 raised in Jan/Feb 2024

Your donations of 10c recyclable bottles, cans and plastics are welcome. All proceeds go to the Parish.

## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAMME - AIRS SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024



On the Journey this week: Sr Katherine Stone MGL asks do we truly believe that: "God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved." Mother Hilda tells what really happens when we pray for somebody else. Fr Tony Percy says we need rest, being able to look back upon our work, internalise it and see that it is good, just like God on the seventh day of creation. And from the Pietà Lenten Series, Darren McDowell on hope and the Lord consoling his people. Listen at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

## A VOCATION VIEW

To be cut off from the treasures of the Church is to be cast away from life itself. As the Israelites longed to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem, so must we long to continue to build up the Church today. (Psalm 137)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)



## 2024 SENIORS FESTIVAL 'REACH BEYOND'

11 - 21 MARCH

CatholicCare are hosting a number of fun and informative FREE events for seniors at Wollongong and Campbelltown.

- **LIVE SAFE: Falls Prevention Information Session**  
**Where:** 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong  
**When:** 11am on Tuesday 19 March 2024  
FREE - but only 15 spots available so book in quick.
- **GET CREATIVE: Art & Social Session (Painting)**  
**Where:** 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong  
**When:** 10am & 11.15am on Thursday 21 March 2024  
FREE - but only 10 spots available per session, so book in quick.

To book your spot at one of the above events call Colleen on **0437 715647**.

## MARCH 2024 YOUNG ADULT OVER 18 EVENT

Join us on **Saturday, 23 March, arrival from 5pm, at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park** for a soul-enriching Holy Week and Easter experience. Connect with fellow young adults, engage in prayer, and delve into a catechesis on Holy Thursday and Good Friday events.

The night concludes with an outdoor screening of 'The Passion of the Christ' by Mel Gibson.  
BYO dinner and snacks, along with a picnic blanket or chair.  
Free event! Register here <https://www.trybooking.com/CPNVW> (Note: Over 18s only)

## LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

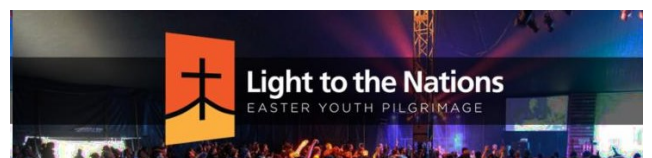
### - 2024 EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

You're invited to an Easter experience like no other.

**Held from 28-31 March**, LTTN will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW.

It is a transformative experience designed to bring families, especially youth and young adults, to an encounter with the person of Jesus in the context of the Easter Triduum through prayer, worship, drama, music, and personal sharing.

Register at [dow.sh/LTTN24](http://dow.sh/LTTN24)



## 10 MARCH - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

**First Reading - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**Responsorial Psalm - Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. R.
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' R.
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! R.
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! R.

**Second Reading - Ephesians 2:4-10**

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory and praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, that he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel - John 3:14-21**

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'